

## House Republican Press Release

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### Lawmakers Renew Commitment to Oppose Overhead Power Lines Upgrade



**Hartford** - A group of lawmakers from Southwestern Connecticut met this week with state Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and renewed their commitment to oppose plans that would allow utility companies to upgrade with overhead transmission lines from Norwalk to Middletown. **Senator Joseph Crisco (D-Woodbridge)**, a representative for **Senator Leonard Fasano (R-North Haven)**, **Representatives Raymond Kalinowski (R-Durham, Mary Fritz (D-Wallingford), Alfred Adinolfi (R-Cheshire), Themis Klarides (R-Derby)**, and members of the Save Our Children Coalition attended the meeting.

The lawmakers want the power lines buried underground. They met with Attorney General Blumenthal to discuss action plans and options to address the continuing failure of the Connecticut Siting Council to appropriately address the legislation the General Assembly passed in 2004. It called on the Siting Council to bury the power lines and use other alternatives in order prevent the installation of high voltage overhead power lines near schools and playgrounds to protect the health and safety of children and residents.

“We’re getting increasingly concerned that the legislation we approved last year is not being properly addressed by the Siting Council,” said **Senator Crisco**. “We want to pursue every avenue possible to protect the health of the children and constituents that would be adversely impacted by the proposed power line upgrade.”

“This was one in a number of meetings that legislators and Attorney General Blumenthal have had in an effort to monitor the power line issue,” said **Representative Klarides**. “This issue has been and continues to be a high priority for us, with our utmost concern being the safety and well being of area residents that will be impacted.”

“The legislature must be active and aggressive to make sure the provisions of the law we passed last year are adhered to strictly. We must keep pressure on the Siting Council,” said **Representative Fritz**.

“It seems to me that the health issues associated with the electro magnetic field levels have been set aside,” said **Representative Adinolfi**. “The Siting Council is not erring on

the side of caution in the approval of this application, and I'm appalled that the health of our children is at risk because of this."

The lawmakers will continue to monitor the Siting Council, and that includes a technical meeting scheduled for Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. It will focus on just how much of the proposed transmission line can be buried underground.

"The legislators will be actively involved in proposing legislation, working with the Save Our Children Coalition, and members of the Connecticut Congressional delegation to address this complex issue to find the right solution," said **Senator Crisco**. "We don't want to prevent the upgrading of energy where needed, but there is a way to find a fair solution."